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DRONFIELD
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

HEALTH OF
DRONFIELD

for

1950

By JOHN REID GRAHAM, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.

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ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1950.

Mr Chairman Ladies and Gentlemen,

I herewith present the report on the health of the district for the year 1950.

It is pleasing to note that the infantile mortality rate shows a further fall from 31 **per** 1,000 births to 16 per 1,000. In actual figures there were two deaths of infants under one year. One death was due to a domestic accident, the other to a congenital malformation.

As a whole the vital statistics are very satisfactory. Of the 85 deaths registered in the Urban Area 46 are due to circulatory troubles, i.e. heart failure and high blood pressure, and the great majority are of persons over 65 years of age.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN R. GRAHAM,

Medical Officer of Health

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Population (Registrar General's figure) 7,470

BIRTH RATE.

15.79 per 1,000 of the estimated resident population.

16.19 per 1,000 (Live and Still) births

DEATH RATE.

11.37 per 1,000 of the estimated resident population.

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES.

From Sepsis Nil

From other causes Nil

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births 16.94

Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births 17.54

Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births Nil

Deaths from Measles (all ages) Nil

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) Nil

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ... Nil

BIRTHS IN DRONFIELD URBAN DISTRICT.

Live Births.

Males: Total 57—Legitimate 54

Illegitimate 3

Females: Total 61—Legitimate 60

Illegitimate 1

Still Births.

Males: Total Nil—Legitimate Nil

Illegitimate Nil

Females: Total 3—Legitimate 3

Illegitimate Nil

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

Males Total 1—Legitimate Nil

Illegitimate Nil

Females: Total 1—Legitimate 1

Illegitimate Nil

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 4 WEEKS OF AGE.

Males:	Total	Nil—Legitimate	...	...	...	Nil
		Illegitimate	...	...	...	Nil
Females:	Total	1—Legitimate	...	...	...	1
		Illegitimate	...	...	...	Nil

HOUSING AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

About 18 months ago it was felt that at last the housing position was beginning to improve, but since then the applications have been increasing and at the moment the register is as full as ever it has been.

This much can be said, however, that the really bad cases of overcrowding have been dealt with.

The majority of the applicants now on the list are those not having separate accommodation, but are not badly overcrowded. While physically there is not any great danger to health psychological upsets can be of great detriment to both tenants and sub-tenants.

There is one housing feature in Dronfield of which the Council should be very proud, that is the old age persons' bungalows in the Manor grounds. One could go very far before seeing the equal, both in construction and site layout.

Some housing authorities deprecate isolating old folk and maintain that their dwellings should be part and parcel of a housing estate. Some of the old folk may not care to be isolated but the majority like a bit of peace, and on the average housing estate there are many children, and where one gets healthy youngsters, there is noise, and frequently mischief.

I am certain that this little housing project will be universally admired. Despite all attempts by the planners, most large modern housing estates look rather "mass pro-

duced' especially where the houses are of the prefabricated type, and to come to view the stone faced bungalows and their set-out is most refreshing.

Dronfield still continues to occupy a rather peculiar position of part dormitory for Sheffield and a township with its own industries. Some fresh industries, mainly connected with steel and iron trade, have been established, but the most recent is a large modern bakery. This factory is equipped with the latest modern appliances and with its "set-up" must be one of the most up-to-date in Britain.

The Directors of this concern hope to be able, in the near future, to extend and accommodate the biscuit-making and cooked meats department on the same site.

As well as having most modern appliances and ideal working conditions, the comfort of the workers has not been overlooked. Each worker has his or her own clothes locker and there are ample washing facilities including shower baths. There is also a canteen giving a full meals service and a rest room.

If one could criticise, it would be to lament the passing of much individual skill and craftsmanship in the personnel. The machine is paramount; even the number of loaves passing through the ovens is automatically recorded. This dominance of the machine is, of course, common to most modern plants and, in fact, the man with the individualistic job is the plant maintenance engineer.

In an attempt to minimise the monotony of certain tasks, the workers are given frequent changes of work so that their whole working time is not spent on one single process.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

No proceedings have been necessary under the Act. Two cases have been investigated but in both instances it was the patients who desired accommodation but were unable to obtain admission. In both cases, it is pleasing to note that on representing the cases to the appropriate authority, the patients were admitted to institutions.

The problem of the aged and infirm person is a growing

one. To-day the number of aged persons, i.e. over 70 years must be ten times that of 50 years ago.

It is acknowledged on all side that the longer old folk can stay in their own homes, the better; when, however, they become subject to recurring illness, etc., domestic help in the home is very difficult to obtain. In the past, with fewer old folk living, families were larger and usually some relative was available to help. To-day, family help is not available in many cases and although the Home Help Service bridges many a gap, there are cases where nursing is required as well.

The type of case which most frequently falls between two stools, so to speak, is the old person who is really not well enough to be admitted to a hostel or Part III accommodation, yet hardly qualifies for a bed in a chronic sick ward of the Hospital Service.

Again, when old folks are being looked after by relatives or home helps a time often does come when the control of bladder and bowel is weakened with the resultant "accidents" to bedding, clothing, etc.

The average housewife can cope with this to a certain extent but the continual washing and wear and tear on bed-clothes, clothing, etc., soon becomes too much of a burden, and requests are then made to find institutional accommodation.

The demand for beds, both in the chronic sick ward and in Part III accommodation is so great that quite often there is a considerable wait before a patient can be accommodated, and, moreover, there seems little prospect in the near future of extra accommodation being provided, though the demand will most certainly increase.

The difficulties of dealing with old folks in the home is further complicated by the housing shortage. In many instances old folk have to share sleeping accommodation with children, which is detrimental to both parties.

The whole problem is being tackled and the setting up of special geriatric units in hospitals may help to rehabilitate a number of old folk hitherto regarded as chronic cases with no hope of ever vacating an institutional bed.

The present position, however, with shortage of hospital beds is not reassuring and it must be realised that with the

best will in the world the authorities concerned, i.e. the local health authority and the hospitals, cannot deal with this group of the population as adequately as they would like.

One would have liked to see incorporated in the Act a section whereby quick action could be taken in certain cases to secure admission to hospital with or without consent of the patient, instead of having to wait three or four weeks or longer after first seeing the patient, to secure admission.

The type of case I have in mind is the person who has cerebral degenerative changes along with other ailments. They are difficult to deal with in a private house; the doctor often finds it impossible to secure admission to a chronic sick unit and ends up by certifying the patient, thus securing a bed in a mental hospital.

One might argue that the main object has been achieved, namely, the patient has got a bed, but inevitably the stigma of insanity will be with the patient's family and descendants if the death occurs in a mental institution.

The difficulties presented by the case suffering from senile mental confusion, etc., are a problem for those in charge of hospitals and institutions as well as to the relatives and private practitioners. These aged people are often so noisy and difficult to keep in bed that if admitted to a chronic sick ward they disturb and annoy other patients. The ideal solution, of course, would be special wards for this "half-way ease" as it has been described, but in most institutions lack of space, and more particularly, staff, does not permit of this being done. It is, however, agreed by all dealing with the aged and infirm, that it is wrong to certify as insane the people who have no real mental disease, where the mental upset is part and parcel of the general degenerative changes due to age.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

There has been a big increase in the notifications of Scarlet Fever, Measles and Whooping Cough. Fortunately, the diseases have been of a mild type; no deaths were recorded from any of the above diseases.

Disease	Total Number Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	28	20	0
Diphtheria	0	0	0
Enteric Fever	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	0	0
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	0	0	0
Erysipelas	0	0	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum... ..	0	0	0
Encephalitis Lethargica	0	0	0
Poliomyelitis	0	0	0
Pneumonia	4	2	3
Measles	111	2	0
Whooping Cough	33	1	0
Dysentery	2	0	0

TUBERCULOSIS RETURN FOR 1950

Age Periods in years	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non- Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non- Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
under 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1 & over	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
5 & over	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15 & over	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
25 & over	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
35 & over	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0
45 & over	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
55 & over	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
65 & over	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	1	5	1	0	2	0	0	1

Cases included above	NOT PRIMARY				NOT NOTIFIED			
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

BIRTH RATES, DEATH RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY
 INFANT MORTALITY AND CASE-RATES FOR CERTAIN IN-
 FECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE YEAR 1950. Provisional figures
 based on Quarterly Returns.

	126 County Boroughs and Great Towns (including London)	148 Smaller Towns (resident Populations 25,000— 50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Adminis- trative County.	Dorset Urban District Council
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BIRTHS.

	Rates per 1,000 Home Population.				
Live Births	15.8	17.6	16.7	17.8	15.79
Still Births	0.37	0.45	0.38	0.36	0.40

DEATHS.

All Causes	11.6	12.3	11.6	11.8	11.37
Typhoid & paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis	0.36	0.42	0.33	0.39	0.40
Influenza	0.10	0.09	0.10	0.07	0.00
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis in- cluding polioencepha- litis)	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.00
Pneumonia	0.46	0.49	0.45	0.48	0.40

NOTIFICATIONS (Corrected)

Typhoid fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00
Paratyphoid fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Meningococcal infection	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.00
Scarlet fever	1.50	1.56	1.61	1.23	3.74
Whooping Cough	3.60	3.97	3.15	3.21	4.41
Diphtheria	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.00
Erysipelas	0.17	0.19	0.16	0.17	0.00
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	8.39	8.76	8.36	6.57	14.85
Pneumonia	0.70	0.77	0.61	0.50	0.53
Acute poliomyelitis (including polioencephalitis)					
Paralytic	0.13	0.12	0.11	0.08	0.00
Non-paralytic	0.05	0.05	0.06	0.05	0.00
Food poisoning	0.17	0.16	0.14	0.25	0.00

DEATHS.

Rates per 1,000 Live Births.

All causes under 1 year of age	29.8(a)	33.8	29.4	26.3	16.94
Enteritis & diarrhoea under 2 years of age	1.9	2.2	1.6	1.0	0.00

NOTIFICATIONS (corrected)

Rates per 1,000 Total (Live & Still) Births.

Puerperal fever and pyrexia	5.81	7.43	4.33	6.03	0.00
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Maternal Mortality in England and Wales.

International List No. and cause	Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births.	Rates per million women aged 15—44
651. Abortion with sepsis ...	0.09	7
650, 652. Other abortion ...	0.05	4
640-649. 670-678. Complication of pregnancy and delivery...	0.54	
681. Sepsis of childbirth and the puerperium ...	0.03	
680. 682-689. Other complica- tions of the puerperium ...	0.15	

(a) Per 1,000 related live births.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE DRONFIELD URBAN DISTRICT DURING 1950.

	Male	Female
All causes ...	50	35
Tuberculosis, respiratory ...	2	0
Tuberculosis, other ...	0	1
Syphilitic disease ...	0	0
Diphtheria ...	0	0
Whooping Cough ...	0	0
Meningococcal infections ...	0	0
Acute poliomyelitis ...	0	0
Measles ...	0	0
Other infectious and parasitic diseases ...	1	0
Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	2	0
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	1	0
Malignant neoplasm, breast ...	0	1
Malignant neoplasm, uterus ...	0	2
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	4	1

Leukæmia, aleukæmia	...	...	...	1	...	0
Diabetes	...	...	...	0	...	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	8	...	9
Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	10	...	1
Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	1	...	1
Other heart disease	...	...	...	5	...	7
Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	2	...	1
Influenza	...	...	...	0	...	0
Pneumonia	...	...	...	3	...	0
Bronchitis	...	...	...	2	...	2
Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	0	...	0
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	0	...	0
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhœa	...	...	...	0	...	0
Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	1	...	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	1	...	0
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	0	...	0
Congenital malformations	...	...	...	0	...	0
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	2	...	3
Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	1	...	1
All other accidents	...	...	...	2	...	2
Suicide	...	...	...	1	...	0
Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	0	...	0

POOLSBROOK TREATMENT CENTRE

There has been a general fall in the numbers treated for scabies and verminous heads.

As regards the latter, there seems to be a hard core of persistent offenders usually due to ignorant and careless mothers. Each mother is instructed in the use of "saleo" and the steel comb, but sometimes the same families will be sent to the centre two or three times in the year.

Though not used to anything like full capacity, the centre still fulfils a useful purpose as the "hard-core" are at least cleaned up periodically and prevented from being a continual reservoir of infection.

TREATMENT CENTRE, POOLSBROOK.

No. of Cases 98.

SCABIES.				Adults	5-15	under 5	Total
Bolsover U.D.C.	...	...	...	6	1	1	8
Chesterfield Borough	...	...	...	4	7	1	12
Chesterfield R.D.C.	...	...	...	7	5	3	15
Clay Cross U.D.C.	...	...	...	2	0	0	2
Clowne R.D.C.	...	...	...	1	4	0	5
Dronfield U.D.C.	...	...	...	2	1	1	4
Staveley U.D.C.	...	...	...	4	0	0	4
				26	18	6	50

HEAD LICE.

Bolsover U.D.C.	...	...	...	0	0	0	0
Chesterfield Borough	...	...	...	0	14(7)	0	14(7)
Chesterfield R.D.C.	...	...	...	1(1)	0	1(1)	2(2)
Clay Cross U.D.C.	...	...	...	0	3(2)	1(1)	4(3)
Clowne R.D.C.	...	...	...	0	0	0	0
Dronfield U.D.C.	...	...	...	0	0	0	0
Staveley U.D.C.	...	...	...	0	8(7)	0	8(7)
				1(1)	25(16)	2(2)	28(19)

SCABIES WITH VERMINOUS HEADS.

Bolsover U.D.C.	...	...	...	0	0	0	0
Chesterfield Borough	...	...	...	0	5(5)	0	5(5)
Chesterfield R.D.C.	...	...	...	0	1(1)	1(1)	2(2)
Clay Cross U.D.C.	...	...	...	0	0	0	0
Clowne R.D.C.	...	...	...	0	0	0	0
Dronfield U.D.C.	...	...	...	0	0	0	0
Staveley U.D.C.	...	...	...	0	0	0	0
				0	6(6)	1(1)	7(7)

Diagnosis not confirmed	...	...	...	16			
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	3			
Pediculosis Corporis	...	...	...	1	(Bolsover U.D.C.)		
Pediculosis Pubis	...	...	...	0			
				20			

Note.—The numbers in brackets refer to those on whom live lice were found.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATIONS

Number of children who completed the full course of immunisation in the Authority's area during the year 1950:—

Under 1.	1.	2.	3.	4	5 - 9 inclusive	10 - 14 inclusive	Total
—	12	2	1	—	12	1	28

WATER SUPPLY.

The supply has been adequate in quantity and quality.

Samples are taken at regular intervals by the N.E. Derbyshire Joint Water Committee's Officials and by your own Sanitary Inspector. Any unsatisfactory samples are reported immediately to the department concerned so that remedial measures can be taken.

Summary of Water Samples taken by Sanitary Inspector:—

Supply—N.E. Derbyshire Joint Water Committee.

Number taken—13.

Result—13 satisfactory.

SANITARY INSPECTOR AND CLEANSING SUPERINTENDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1950.

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting for your consideration my report on the work of the Health Department for the year 1950.

GENERAL INFORMATION APPERTAINING TO THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF DRONFIELD

Estimated Population	...	...	...	...	...	7470
Area	...	...	...	...	...	3452 acres
Number of Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	...	...	2359
Rateable Value 1950/51	...	...	...	...	...	£36,019
Rate Levied 1950/51	...	...	...	...	...	£0-19-2
Product of 1d. rate 1950/51	...	...	...	...	...	£139-15-4

HOUSING.

The problem which faces the Local Authority is a difficult one. Our waiting list is again increasing, there being 280 Dronfield applications outstanding at the end of the year.

In 1950 the Council had only six houses handed over to them by the building contractors for letting, and ten houses were completed by private enterprise builders.

REFUSE COLLECTION DISPOSAL AND SALVAGE.

A seven day collection of household refuse has been maintained throughout the year. Labour problems were encountered and holidays and sickness did not improve matters. Being a small Authority there is not the floating type of labour to call upon as is possible in the larger areas.

The new refuse tip on Wreakes Lane is settling down, early teething troubles have been sorted out and work is now proceeding satisfactorily.

At the commencement of the year, the Salvage position was, to say the least difficult, it being almost impossible to dispose of waste paper. By late June, the waste paper was

improving and we secured a five year contract with the Thames Board Mills, who undertook to take our whole output. In October with the demand for waste paper increasing the prices of this commodity were increased.

MATERIALS COLLECTED AND SOLD.

	Tons	cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.
Waste paper	59	12	0	0
Kitchen waste	37	13	2	0
Cullet (broken glass)	4	3	0	0
Textiles	1	18	0	0
Bones	0	5	1	14
Scrap metal	20	3	2	0
Non-ferrous metals	0	2	3	10
Bottles and Jars	1344 dozens.			

Giving a total of 136 tons, 18 cwts, and 24 lbs.

The total income from the sale of the above for the whole year was £559.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

The following premises were registered for the sale of ice cream:—

Sheffield & Ecclesall Co-operative Society, Hartington
Road Branch, Dronfield.

Greyhound Inn, Dronfield—(T. C. Lavender).

5 Stubley Lane, Dronfield—(E. M. Jackson).

CONDEMNED FOOD STUFFS.

The following foodstuffs were condemned as unfit for human consumption:—

1 18 lbs. tin Boneless Cooked Ham.

1 23 lbs. tin Boneless Cooked Ham.

1 6 lbs. tin Shoulder Ham.

1 20 lbs. tin Frozen Pineapple Slices.

2 tins Condensed full cream milk.

MILK SAMPLING.

A number of milk samples were submitted for examination results as follows:—

14 samples satisfied the Methylene Blue Test.

5 samples satisfied the Biological Test.

CONVERSIONS.

Six pail closets, six privy middens and one waste water closet have been discontinued and twenty three water closets provided in lieu.

Two privy middens converted to pail closets and five pails provided.

PETROLEUM ACTS.

Fourteen licences were granted for the storage of Petroleum Spirit.

One licence was granted for the storage of Calcium Carbide.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT, 1919.

This Act was replaced by the

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

which came into operation on the 31st day of March, 1950.

The sewers in the district were treated systematically throughout the year. The sewage works and other Local Authority premises were also treated.

A few private dwellings were also cleared but there are no large infestations in the area. Several farmers have contracts with the Agricultural Executive Committee (Pest Section) who give regular treatments at the farms in question.

RECORD OF VISITS AND WORK CARRIED OUT DURING THE YEAR.

	Visits
Conversion of privy middens to water closets	103
Conversion of privy middens to pail closets	43
Ash pits converted to dust bins	1
Defective Water Closets	38
Defective pail closets	1
Choked drains	52
Defective Drains	43
New Drains	61
Drain testing	42
Cesspools	26
Defective dust bins	163
General housing defects	145
Council house maintenance	873
Refuse collection and salvage	116
Land Charges Enquiry	27
Water Sampling	17
Water supplies	24
Factories sanitary accommodation	17
Factories fire escapes	3
Alleged dirty houses	6
Infectious diseases	36
Offensive smells	4
Petroleum licences	15
Piggeries	7
Ice cream manufacturers and retailers	32
Nuisances from animals, poultry, etc.	9
Housing Act, 1936	28
Food and Drugs Act, 1938	55
Rats and Mice Destruction Act	95
Places of Entertainment	
Miscellaneous	187
Sink wastes choked	14
Caravans	27
Builders interviewed	41
Smoke abatement	4
Requisitioned houses	12
Insanitary sinks	1
Burial of dead	7
Yard paving	2
Middens	37
Public House sanitation	2
Accumulation	2

Flooded cellars	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Waste water closets	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Infestation	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	61
							2504

WORK CARRIED OUT DURING THE YEAR.

Number of middens converted to water closets	...	...	...	...	...	8
Number of middens converted to pail closets	...	...	...	...	...	8
Number of middens repaired	...	...	...	...	...	4
Number of pail closets to water closets	...	...	...	...	...	0
Number of water closets provided on conversions	...	...	...	...	...	23
Number of pails provided	...	...	...	...	...	5
Water closets repaired	...	...	...	...	...	4
Waste water closets discontinued	...	...	...	...	...	1
New W.C. basins fixed	...	...	...	...	...	10
Choked drains cleared	...	...	...	...	...	18
Houses affected	...	...	...	...	...	47
Defective drains repaired	...	...	...	...	...	4
New drains constructed	...	...	816-ft. of	4 in. drain	...	
Cesspools discontinued	...	...	...	...	...	3
Cesspools repaired	...	...	...	...	...	0
Ventilation stacks repaired	...	...	...	...	104 ft.	
Drains tested	...	...	...	...	...	9
New manholes constructed	...	...	...	...	...	16
—Manholes repaired	...	...	...	...	...	6
New trapped gullies fixed	...	...	...	...	...	8
New sinks fitted	...	...	...	...	...	1
Sink waste pipes repaired	...	...	...	...	...	4
Dustbins supplied	...	...	...	...	...	106
House chimneys repaired	...	...	...	...	...	1
House roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	18
New eaves spouts fitted	...	...	...	...	...	3
House floors repaired	...	...	...	...	...	13
House doors repaired	...	...	...	...	...	4
House wallplaster repaired	...	...	...	...	...	11
House ceilings repaired	...	...	...	...	...	18
House fireplaces repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	15
New ranges fitted	...	...	...	...	...	2
House windows repaired	...	...	...	...	...	9
Yard pavings repaired	...	...	...	...	...	1
Burst water pipes repaired	...	...	...	...	...	6

ERIC M. HOUSECROFT,

Sanitary Inspector
and Cleansing Superintendent

